

Exhibit 4: Project Letters

LYNN WOOLSEY
6TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEES:

EDUCATION AND LABOR

CHAIRWOMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
WORKFORCE PROTECTIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD,
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY
AND ENVIRONMENT

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICA
AND GLOBAL HEALTH

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0506

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SANTA ROSA, CA 95404
TELEPHONE: (707) 542-7182

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SAN RAFAEL, CA 94903
TELEPHONE: (415) 507-9554

WEB PAGE AND E-MAIL:
<http://www.woolsey.house.gov>

November 19, 2010

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing to express my support for the application submitted by the County of Sonoma Regional Parks Department for grant funding through the Coastal Conservancy San Francisco Bay Area Program to complete the Master Plan for Tolay Lake Regional Park. This plan will guide restoration and access across 3,426-acres of protected open space in southern Sonoma County.

It is my understanding that completion of the Master Plan and subsequent site improvements will expand education opportunities to serve students from Sonoma, Napa, Marin, Alameda, and Solano counties. Funding for this project will also provide recreation opportunities that will be accessible and enjoyed by Sonoma County residents and visitors balanced with stewardship of existing natural and cultural resources.

This project will greatly benefit the 6th Congressional District. I urge you to give this application your full and careful consideration. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Chris Rogers in my Santa Rosa office at (704) 542-7182.

Sincerely,



Lynn Woolsey
Member of Congress

LW:cjr



November 18, 2010

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Re: Tolay Lake Regional Park Master Plan

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing to ask your support for the application to the Coastal Conservancy San Francisco Bay Program to complete the next key step in the Tolay Lake Regional Park process, the Master Plan. Guided by cultural and resource management studies, the purpose of the Master Plan is to provide recreation opportunities that will be accessible and enjoyed by Sonoma County residents and visitors balanced with stewardship of existing natural and cultural resources.

The property is of particular interest to me since many members of our tribe are direct descendents of people having lived in one of two major aboriginal villages surrounding the lake, or what was once the lake, as the water was drained from it over 100 years ago. I have heard family stories that the lake and surrounding area was highly sacred and once was considered one of three areas in all of northern and central California where Indian doctors from different tribes convened for sacred ceremonies and the exchange of ritual objects and songs for the purpose of healing.

For my people, the Coast Miwok and Southern Pomo known today as the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, stories are all that remain of a past where our doctors and leaders kept us constantly aware of the complex relationship we share with the world in which we live. The proposed project at this site has been reviewed by members of our Sacred Sites Committee and Tribal Council and found to be of highest priority in terms of preservation.

I encourage the Coastal Conservancy to see the requested grant as necessary to tell the unique story of this place. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lorelle W. B. Ross
Tribal Vice-Chair

cc: Deborah Hirst, State Coastal Conservancy
Caryl Hart, Ph.D., Sonoma County Regional Parks

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

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Jared Huffman
ASSEMBLY MEMBER, 6TH DISTRICT

CHAIR, Water Parks and
Wildlife

COMMITTEES
Natural Resources
Utilities & Commerce
Assembly Budget Committee
Subcommittee No. 3 on
Resources

<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a06>

November 15, 2010

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

RE: Tolay Lake Regional Park Master Plan

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am pleased to support Sonoma County Regional Parks' application for \$300,000 in funding through the Coastal Conservancy San Francisco Bay Area Program grant to complete the Master Plan for Tolay Lake Regional Park. This plan will guide restoration and access across 3,426-acres of protected open space in southern Sonoma County.

The Master Plan will evaluate a number of improvements including Tolay Lake restoration, park access and extensive trails, and an interpretive center and education facility. With site use limitations under the current Interim Plan, education programs for school groups are already at capacity. The completion of the Master Plan and subsequent site improvements will expand education opportunities to serve students from Sonoma, Napa, Marin, Alameda, and Solano counties.

This project is the next step toward creating public access to the Tolay Lake property, acquired by the County of Sonoma in 2005, and the Tolay Creek property, acquired by Sonoma Land Trust in 2007. These organizations have continued collaborative stewardship and planning work since acquisition, funded by local, foundation, and federal programs. We now have the opportunity to compile the information gathered into a single Master Plan, presenting an informed recommendation for complete public access supported by future development, restoration, and education opportunities.

This project will greatly benefit the 6th Assembly District, and I urge you to give this application your serious consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jared Huffman", written over a horizontal line.

Jared Huffman
Assemblyman, 6th District

cc: Deborah Hirst, State Coastal Conservancy
Caryl Hart, Ph.D., Director Sonoma County Regional Parks

COUNTY OF SONOMA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
575 ADMINISTRATION DRIVE, RM. 100A
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MIKE KERNS
SUPERVISOR, SECOND
DISTRICT

mkerns@sonoma-county.org

October 20, 2010

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

RE: Tolay Lake Regional Park Master Plan

Doug
Dear Chairman Bosco:

I strongly support Regional Parks completing the next key step in the Tolay Lake Regional Park process and their \$300,000 funding request to the Conservancy. Although a number of studies and planning work has already been completed, supported by over \$1 million from Sonoma County, funding is now needed to complete the Master Plan.

The Conservancy has been a central partner throughout the Tolay process, including the acquisition of the Tolay Lake property in 2005 and the Tolay Creek property in 2007. Stewardship and planning work has continued since acquisition. An Interim Plan allowing limited public access was completed in 2009. We now have the opportunity to compile the information gathered into a single Master Plan, presenting an informed recommendation for complete public access supported by future development, restoration, and education opportunities for this 3,426 acre site.

The Master Plan will evaluate a number of improvements including Tolay Lake restoration, park access and extensive trails, and an interpretive center and education facility. Under the current Interim Plan, education programs for school groups are already at capacity. The completion of the Master Plan and subsequent site improvements can expand education opportunities to serve students from Sonoma, Napa, Marin, Alameda, and Solano counties.

I am grateful for your leadership role in protecting and restoring Sonoma County's open space lands. I encourage you to approve this grant furthering regional stewardship and public access opportunities. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mike

Mike Kerns
Second District Supervisor
Sonoma County Board of Supervisors



966 Sonoma Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
Tel: 707-526-6930
Fax: 707-526-3001

www.sonomalandtrust.org

October 19, 2010

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

RE: Tolay Lake Regional Park Master Plan

Dear Chairman Bosco:

The Sonoma Land Trust enthusiastically supports Regional Parks' request of \$300,000 to complete the Master Plan for Tolay Lake Regional Park. We are pleased that the Land Trust's Tolay Creek Ranch property will be included in the project planning process for this combined 3,426-acre protected open space. This is an opportunity to plan for restoration and compatible uses for most of the Tolay Creek watershed.

Our acquisition of Tolay Creek Ranch in 2007 doubled the size of Tolay Lake Regional Parks and completed the protection of a habitat corridor extending from the wetlands fringing San Pablo Bay to the foothills of Sonoma Mountain. The Sonoma Land Trust and Regional Parks have already completed a number of assessments and studies as well as initial planning; yielding data that will inform the Master Planning process and reduce its cost. This work has been supported by over \$1 million from Sonoma County, \$250,000 from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, and \$10,000 from Community Foundation Sonoma County. In addition, we are implementing the Tolay Creek Riparian Enhancement Plan and have completed significant portions of Phase I, with support from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (\$144,000), the Carneros Land Stewardship Foundation (\$20,000) and the North Bay Conservation Corps (\$47,000).

We have been working with Regional Parks to provide guided hikes on the Tolay Creek property and staff from both organizations are working closely on gathering information, sharing studies, and installing restoration projects. We now have the opportunity to compile the information gathered into a single Master Plan, presenting an informed recommendation for complete public access supported by future development, restoration, and education opportunities for this 3,426 acre site. The Master Plan will evaluate a number of improvements including Tolay Lake restoration, park access and extensive trails, and an interpretive center and education facility. The Conservancy has been a central partner throughout our efforts to protect the Tolay Creek watershed, including supporting the acquisition of the Tolay Lake property in 2005 and the Tolay Creek property in 2007. We are grateful for your investment in the Sonoma Baylands and your

...to protect the land forever

Exhibit 4: Project Letters

leadership in protecting and restoring Sonoma County's open space lands. I encourage you to approve this grant, furthering regional stewardship and public access opportunities and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to be 'R. Benson', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Ralph Benson
Executive Director

cc: Deborah Hirst, State Coastal Conservancy
Mary E. Burns, Sonoma County Regional Parks